

politics with the lives of those struggling with the heroin and prescription opioid crisis after promising they would help. That would mean Democrats have been playing politics with the lives of flood victims after saying they cared.

I know our Democratic friends wouldn't want the American people to think that.

I hope every one of our Democratic friends will show us today that they are actually serious about supporting veterans and tackling Zika and flood relief and the heroin and prescription opioid crisis, and we all know the way to do that is by supporting the legislation before us that actually does those things.

This 10-week funding bill need not be, as some Democratic leaders seem to wish, some titanic struggle for the ages. It is just a 10-week funding bill. It is hard to believe Democrats would really be willing to hold up this commonsense package and its critical resources to address Zika, the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic, and floods.

The clean CR-Zika package before us is fair. It is a result of literally weeks of bipartisan negotiations. It does the very things Members of both parties and, more importantly, our constituents have been calling for.

We really cannot afford to delay any longer. Passing this clean CR-Zika package should be one of the easiest votes we cast.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. today for an all-Senators briefing; further, that the time from 10:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. be under the control of the majority, and 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. be under the control of the Democrats.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republican leader just said: What are the Democrats trying to do, have built-in dysfunction?

During the 8 years I was majority leader, we had to overcome 644 filibusters led by the Republicans—644. A comparable time: Lyndon Johnson, who was the majority leader for 6 years, had to overcome one and, arguably, two filibusters. Two compared to 644, so don't lecture us on building dysfunction. They have invented it in the modern Senate.

This afternoon the Senate will vote on cloture on the CR proposed by the

Republicans. I appreciate the good work done by appropriators, on our side lead by Senator MIKULSKI. They have done good work, and tremendous progress has been made.

The Republican proposal will likely fail to get cloture this afternoon, and for good reason. The Republican legislation misses the mark. It seeks to keep in place the status quo with regard to undisclosed, unaccountable dark money that is flooding our political system.

On the way to work this morning, I learned that the National Rifle Association is placing another \$1 million of TV ads in Nevada. We all know that the National Rifle Association was really good at direct mailing. They raised that money from their members. That is not how it works now. Most of the NRA money comes from the Koch brothers. We are fortunate there are not two Trumps. That is the dark money we are talking about. Those ads will say NRA, but it is not NRA money. The ads will say the Chamber of Commerce, but it is not Chamber of Commerce money. It is all Koch money. It is how it works with the dark money, nondisclosed money. And the provision my friend the Republican leader has to have in this resolution is this: The Securities and Exchange Commission will be powerless to tell corporations that they have to disclose their campaign contributions. They have to disclose everything else at their shareholders meeting, but not that; oh, no, that would be terrible, any type of disclosure. We want to keep all of this money out there dark, secret—no one knows. All of these phony names they advertise are just so unfair.

The Republican bill includes a rider to the government funding bill that prevents shareholders from knowing how their money is being used in political campaigns. Again, the Republican leader is trying to shut the door on disclosure.

The Republican continuing resolution also ignores the 2½-year crisis in Flint, MI. Lead has poisoned all 100,000 people—almost 10,000 children, some of whom are babies. Lead is a killer for children. After a short period of time—a month, a few weeks—a child who ingests lead in any way, whether they are eating paint off the floor but certainly drinking water, will be affected the rest of their lives. They will not be as smart as they could be; they will not be as agile as they could be. It really hurts them. And it is not good for adults. So after 2½ years, don't those people deserve something?

The Republican leader said there is a water resources development bill, and I acknowledge that. I think good work was done to get that passed. I said yesterday, and I will say again today, that I appreciate the work of Senator INHOFE. He has worked with one of the most liberal Members of the Senate, BARBARA BOXER, and he is one of the most conservative, and they did good work and I appreciate it very much.

But would it be asking too much for the Speaker of the House and the Republican leader of the Senate to stand and say: We are going to get that thing done. We are going to pass it; we are going to make sure that the bill that passed overwhelmingly here in the Senate is going to become law. But they ignored that. They ignored the people of Flint.

We are happy to help with the disaster that took place in Louisiana. Since the Republican leader is here, we have been happy to help with all of the problems, the emergencies they have had in Texas. We stepped up to the plate, and we took care of that. We were happy to do that in Louisiana.

This will not be the reason I will not support this legislation, but I think Louisiana deserved more than what is in this bill. The emergency declaration for them is \$2.8 billion, and in this bill there is \$500 million, and they will get most of that. A little bit will go to West Virginia, and some—a little bit, even less—will go to Maryland. It will be distributed on a proportionate basis. But couldn't they help Flint?

Here was the response of the junior Senator from Louisiana: That is someone else's grief. That is what he said: That is someone else's grief. Louisiana wasn't someone else's grief when the hurricanes struck. It was our grief. The junior Senator from Louisiana should understand that he is a U.S. Senator, not a State senator from Louisiana. It is not someone else's grief; it is our grief.

The Republicans are essentially saying that disasters in our States are more important than disasters in your State. It is unfair and it is wrong.

This morning my leadership team sent a letter to the Republican leader. DURBIN, SCHUMER, and MURRAY—they sent a letter to the Republican leader encouraging the Republicans to come back and give us a solution for the people of Flint.

After the vote on the Republican CR this afternoon, I encourage my Republican colleagues to help us have some degree of certainty that the people of Flint will be helped. It is not deficit spending even though it is an emergency. I believe it should be taken care of just like we had taken care of Louisiana. It is paid for. In fact, I commend Senators STABENOW and PETERS for taking money from a program they have in Michigan to pay for this. It is not deficit spending. Why can't we do it? The reasons are apparent, and that is too bad.

This doesn't need to be a manufactured crisis. We know the Republicans know how to close the Senate. They did it for 17 days, and they have done it another time. We don't need to have this manufactured crisis. We want to make sure that Flint has some degree of certainty that after 2½ years they would get some help. We need to work together to keep our government properly funded and the people of Flint protected. Certainly, we should be able to do that.